FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq fired eight surface-to-surface missiles at the city of Dezful late on 6 March inflicting "extensive casualties and damage," IRNA reported. Preliminary investigations showed 5 dead and 70 injured following the attack, the agency noted. In response to the attack on Dezful, an Iranian Armed Forces communique cited by the agency announced that Iranian forces would launch "artillery and aerial attacks" against the Iraqi cities of Basra and Mandali at 1130 GMT on 7 March, and advised residents to evacuate these cities.

Meanwhile, Iraq announced that its artillery began shelling the Iranian city of Abadan early on 7 March, according to INA. During the 3-hour attack three people were killed and five others wounded, IRNA disclosed.

Lebanon

An explosion in the Riyad al-Sulh area of Beirut killed 7 people and wounded 10 others, Beirut radio announced on 6 March. In the south, the IDF clashed with the Lebanese Army on 7 March at the village of Kawthariyat al-Siyad, some 10 miles south of Sidon, according to a Lebanese Army Command communique broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio. Israeli tanks shelled Army positions in the village, the communique said, and the Lebanese returned the fire. Jerusalem radio had earlier reported that three "terrorists" were killed in clashes with the IDF and the army of southern Lebanon. In another development affecting the south, the Iranian Majlis approved a budget allocation of 1 billion rials to aid the "deprived and oppressed people of Lebanon," according to Tehran radio.

Meanwhile, the commander of the Phalangist Lebanese Forces sounded a cautionary note about relations with Syria during a news conference reported by Voice of Lebanon radio. Syria must prove that it can establish relations with Lebanon in a manner that does not infringe the latter's independence and sovereignty, he said, and the Phalangists "absolutely do not understand" calls for unity with Syria or for the Syrian Army's deployment in Beirut.

Egyptian-Jordanian Talks

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn held a news conference, broadcast by Cairo radio, following talks concerning coordinated moves to solve the Palestine issue. Mubarak repeated his call for the United States to hold talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to prepare for future steps. He denied making statements that the PLO would not be part of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and reiterated that the PLO "is everywhere." Asked about amendments to the PLO-Jordanian agreement, King Husayn declared that there have been no "amendments," only "clarifications." While Mubarak stated that he will stress the importance of "dialogue" during his upcoming talks in the United States, King Husayn concluded that there is a "very narrow window of hope" for resolving the Palestine problem and "this is the last chance."

Reacting to the meeting between President Mubarak and King Husayn, "political sources" in Jerusalem reiterated that Israel insists on "direct negotiations" with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that does not include PLO representatives, Jerusalem radio reported. They contended that negotiations between the United States and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation would be "unacceptable" to Israel and the United States.

PLO

Executive Committee — The PLO Executive Committee met in Tunis to discuss the results of the recent talks between King Husayn and a Palestinian delegation, which conveyed a message to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from Husayn, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported.

Armed Struggle — Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf told *DER SPIEGEL* in a recent interview that he would decline any offer for the PLO to fight Israel from the territory of neighboring Arab states, asserting that no matter how many fighters the PLO could muster, it would "not have a chance" against Israel's military might.

Abu Nidal — The Paris magazine *AFRIQUE ASIE* claimed that an interview with Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal, published by FRANCE PAYS ARABES in February was a fake because Al-Banna could not have been in Lebanon at the time the interview reportedly took place, according to AFP. *AFRIQUE ASIE* contended that Al-Banna has been receiving medical treatment in Eastern Europe during recent months.

Libya

Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio announced that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received a number of Lebanese and Palestinian leaders including Walid Junblatt, head of Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party, and Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha, leader of the Fatah dissident movement.

Sudan

More than 200 Sudanese soldiers were killed on 3 March when they attempted to recapture Jokau from the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the clandestine SPLA radio reported.

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Farmers Fulfill 98 Percent of Agricultural Plan
LD062211 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] As a result of the work by peasants and the timely utilization of chemical fertilizer the outcome of this fall's agricultural campaign is considerable, and more than 98 percent of the plan has been implemented.

Citing a spokesman of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that according to reliable figures from the country s provinces a total of 1,597,000 hectares of land was cultivated with wheat, barley, vegetables and other crops. The land considered for cultivation in the fall was a total of 1,616,000 hectares including 997,000 hectares irrigated and 619,000 not irrigated.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform, with the aim of raising the growth rate of production and of assisting the country's peasants and farmers has supplied a great deal of chemical fertilizers and pesticides at very low prices. During the fall campaign 51,000 tons of chemical fertilizer, including 30,200 tons of urea fertilizer and 20,800 tons of phosphate fertilizer were placed at the disposal of farmers. Also more than 780 tons of wheat seed and an equivalent of 22 million afghanis worth of pesticides and more than 188 million afghanis from the agricultural development bank were placed at the disposal of the country's farmers during the fall campaign.

With the successful implementation of the democratic land and water reform in the country, the importance of mechanized agriculture and the utilization of agricultural machinery in the country are gaining momentum. As an example during the fall campaign, 15,283 hectares were the object of activity by the agricultural machinery stations, from which 6,877,000 afghani were earned.

For the purpose of enlightening peasants, encouraging them in mechanized agriculture and explaining the importance of the use of chemical fertlizer, 494 exhibitions of wheat were created without charge in the private lands of the farmers, and fruitful results were achieved. Also during the fall agricultural campaign, in addition to the convocation of peasants' courses and meetings, a large nun. er of propaganda leaflets were distributed to the peasants.

BAKHTAR on U.S. 'Undeclared War' Against DRA
LD042133 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] The BAKHTAR political commentator writes:

It is now 7 years since the oppressed people of Afghanistan became the target of the undeclared war of imperialism — a war which sows the seeds of death and plunders the toil of this countries' people. The United States — the core of whose official policy constitutes state terrorism — leads this war against our people and revolution.

Recently, reactionary forces subservient to U.S. imperialism have raised an uproar in international forums on the so-called violation of human rights in Afghanistan. These forces, with false and baseless claims, try to show events in reverse order and they cover up the armed aggression and the leading role in the anti-Afghan undeclared war, in which the United States and its allies are clearly a party.

Why is it that these supporters of human rights do not see the main factor in violation of human rights in the international arena — U.S. imperialism. The United States and its allies have spent more than $1 billion for murder and destruction in the undeclared war against Afghanistan. Where did the counter-revolutionaries get their deadly modern weapons, including chemical weapons? These supporters of human rights should answer this question. Are there others besides U.S. imperialism and its collaborators?

There was a revolution in the country of Afghans to free its people from the chain of medieval captivity and to obtain their true freedom. At present the people of Afghanistan enjoy all human and civil rights and freedoms, and are forging ahead with their heads held high toward social, economic and cultural transformations. Human rights are violated only by those who arm counterrevolutionary bands and send them to our country to commit the most shameless of crimes.

The counterrevolutionaries, on the orders of the U.S. CIA, have committed and are committing antihuman crimes, from poisoning drinking water and air at schools, to destroying public institutions, schools, hospitals, mosques, irrigation installations, peasant cooperatives and the harvest in Afghanistan. I will list a few activities of the counterrevolutionaries, who, up to now, have set fire to and destroyed 1,814 schools, 33 hospitals, 11 health centers, 906 peasant cooperatives, hundreds of trucks, 14,000 km of telephone line, hundreds of electricity pylons, hundreds of bridges and irrigation dams and installations, and peasants' harvests and produce.

Bomb explosions in a city bus, outside Kabul Airport terminal and in a Pamir movie theater, bomb explosions in a Kabul city restaurant, with dozens of people killed, are the sign of shame upon the brow of the Reagan administration and its allies. What word will they use to describe firing on an Ariana civil aircraft, carrying 300 passengers, with American weapons?

The violator of human rights in Afghanistan, and throughout the world, is the Reagan government and its collaborators.

Pakistani Election Results Reveal 'Discontent'
LD061044 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0455 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Kabul, March 5, BAKHTAR — The Pakistani people have dealt a heavy blow to Ziaul-Haq's military regime by boycotting the electoral farce, that is, the so-called "general parliamentary election," held for the first time since 1977, writes daily *ANIS*. The daily adds that Zia failed to achieve the turnout of even half of the 40 percent of voters who, according to him could ensure a fair outcome of the election, whereas even 20 percent did not go to the polls. Thus, the overwhelming majority of the Pakistani people expressed their non-confidence to his rule and his policies.

The electoral defeat of Zia's close friends including his five cabinet ministers in the "general parliamentary elections" added to his disgrace and ignominy, for example, Raja Zafarul Haq, minister of information and religious affairs, who was the initiator of the Islamisation of the military government of Pakistan was defeated in the election by a merchant. As also, Ali Ahmad Talpor who was a candidate for the post of prime minister was defeated by a young and less experienced person in politics. This graphically demonstrated discontent of broad sections of the masses with the anti-people policy of the present regime.

Over 1500 leaders and activists of the opposition political parties are languishing in prisons or are under house arrest. Even the smallest criticism made by the Pakistanis regarding the so-called elections was being harshly treated. Many citizens are controlled by the army and police. There is strict ban on publishing reports criticising policies of the regime.

The overwhelming majority of the people believe that Pakistan's problems can only be resolved after the resignation of the Zia administration. Zia's abdication alone may pave the way for just, free and impartial elections. They are determined to continue their struggles for the restoration of democratic rights and freedoms, release of all political prisoners and holding of election on the basis of the 1973 Constitution.

President Increases Number of Senate Seats

BK070745 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The president has promulgated the house of parliament and provincial assemblies elections 8th amendment order 1985. It shall come into force at once. The order has raised the total number of seats in the senate from 63 to 87.

It also provides that five senators shall be elected by members of each provincial assembly to represent ulemas [religious scholars], technocrats, and other professions.

BBC on Opposition Criticism of Zia Amendments

BK061337 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 6 Mar 85

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] In Pakistan, the religious party — Jamiat Islami — which supported the military regime throughout its 7 1/2 years in power, has severely criticized constitutional amendments put forward by General Ziaul Haq.

After meeting for 2 days in Lahore, the party's executive committee spoke of unilateral and self-willed amendments to the Constitution and said the regime had begun a new democratic era after the recent elections with undemocratic measures. Alex Brodie reports from Islamabad.

[Begin Brodie recording] The party, which did badly in the elections, nevertheless accepted the result and said the nation had done so too in the hope that it will lead to the end of martial law. It was shocking, said the Jamiat, that before the newly elected assemblies could meet, the Constitution had been arbitrarily amended. A constitution amendment bill should have been presented to Parliament.

The amendments amounted to the continuation of martial law under the garb of the Constitution. Presidential orders issued under martial law had been given constitutional protection so that the fundamental rights of citizens could be kept suspended even without a state of emergency.

The statement said that General Zia had been given by the Supreme Court only a limited right to amend the Constitution temporarily. Instead, he had made vast basic changes, which had transformed the very character of the 1973 Constitution.

The leader of the party in Karachi, Professor Ghafoor, at a press conference attacked indemnity clauses, which decreed that the acts of the regime could not be challenged in any court.

In Islam, he said, no individual, including the head of state, is above accountability.

Jamiat's attack follows similar predictable condemnation from opposition quarters and lawyers, [word indistinct] also concern expressed by many of those elected in last week's nonparty elections, which the opposition boycotted. [end recording]

JASARAT Editorial on Post-Election Power Transfer

GF060600 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 2 Mar 85 p 3

[Editorial: "And Now the Power Transfer"]

[Excerpts] The second step now is the restoration of democracy — the elections for the provincial assemblies are also over. Some won, some lost at the polls. In every contest it is the same: one loses and the other wins. However the most commendable aspect of the provincial elections was that during the elections, the martial law regime played the role of a referee and the promise made by General Ziaul Haq, the chief martial law administrator, on 5 July 1977 was fulfilled after 8 years. The general also left the matter of proving the popularity or the lack of it of his ministers to the people. As a result, several federal ministers lost in the elections. The ones who won did so on the strength of their good work or their family ties. All this proves that the people have rejected the government policies.

The elections held on 28 February were peaceful except for minor disturbances in some places. In the provincial elections as well several provincial ministers lost. The percentage of votes polled can also be said to have been satisfactory. However the fervor at polling stations was not as much as was expected from a people being allowed to vote after 8 years of waiting. The people in the rural areas and small towns showed more enthusiasm.

Such enthusiasm was often lacking in big cities whose people prefer to treat the election day rather like another holiday. This is why the polling in the cities was only between 20 to 30 percent.

Now the next stage before the government and the people's representatives is the forming of a government. It is not yet clear what would be the powers of the national or the provincial assemblies. Although General Zia has repeatedly said that the National Assembly will have full power, there are some doubts among the newly-elected members and in some political circles regarding the powers of the National Assembly versus the president.

According to official statements so far, the president will have the real power in his hands and the prime minister will have similar power enjoyed by the president in the previous regime. It is being said that the president could pick any man and name him the prime minister. Whether this prime minister would have any power or ever be able to say no to President Ziaul Haq are two questions not very clearly answered.

On the other hand the elections were non-party. The prime minister will have a tough time making a government under these conditions. How would he get majority backing? What would be the powers of the proposed national security council? How far will it influence the National Assembly?

According to the president he has already made amendments to the Constitution. What kind of amendments have not been disclosed yet. One hears daily that the amendments will be announced soon. A majority of the newly-elected members insist that the power to amend the constitution should rest with the National Assembly and not with any single individual.

If the National Assembly does not have the power to amend, then the assembly would be no different from the now defunct federal advisory council. We believe it is time to disclose what the amendments are to be, how far they would be acceptable and what the powers of the National Assembly would be. Now that the democratic process has been completed, martial law should be lifted, and one need not wait for an auspicious movement. We would also appeal to all the winners and losers that now that everything is over they should forget the bitterness generated during the electioneering. They should unite and work for their respective regions. If a winner has 60 votes, the loser also has 40 votes with him. There should be no revenge against the voters who backed the loser candidate. Winners should have the greater interest before them so that they may work for the betterment of the country as a whole.

BBC: 54 Sentenced on Conspiracy Convictions

BK070155 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 7 Mar 85

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] In Pakistan, 54 people who were tried and convicted last year on charges of conspiracy to murder government officials have each been jailed for 25 years. Many have already been imprisoned for up to 3 years before they were tried before a military court in secret. Alex Brodie reports from Islamabad.

[Begin Brodie recording] Several specific attacks were mentioned in the charge sheet, including the bungled attempt in February 1982 to shoot down General Zia's plane with a surface to air missile; the attempted murder of the chief justice who sentenced to death the deposed prime minister, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in 1979; and the famous hijacking to Kabul and Damascus in 1981, for alleged involvement in which a former Bhutto supporter Nasir Baluch was hanged in Karachi jail on Tuesday.

The 54 were not accused of committing these crimes, just of conspiracy with those who did, by virtue of an alleged common membership of the Al-Zulfiqar organization, founded by two sons of Mr Bhutto to exact revenge for his execution. The Bhutto brothers were among 42 people either dead or in exile who were named as co-accused. At the end the trial in December only four or five of the accused were attending the hearings. The rest boycotted proceedings in despair of a fair trial. Sentencing waited. With last week's elections now out of the way, the fate of more than 60 others on trial for conspiracy in 3 jails may soon be known. [end recording]

Exporters Seek To Trade Goods for Iranian Oil

GF051450 Karachi DAWN in English 2 Mar 85 Economic and Business Review Supplement p 1

[Text] Pakistani exporters to Iran are seeking government approval for importing Iranian crude oil in return for their export goods, a move seen by many as the only alternative to remain in the 500 million dollar Iranian market.

"We have already formed our group and have made initial approaches to the Commerce Ministry but we have been told to discuss this matter with the Petroleum Ministry," a leading exporter said.

The constraints have been felt mainly by private sector exporters who have to face the stringent regulations imposed by Tehran following the squeeze on foreign exchange caused by the on-going Gulf war.

Textiles have been the major sector affected by Iranian curbs and Pakistani yarn and cloth exporters find it difficult to replace this lucrative market next door.

"When everywhere also quotas are being imposed and new protectionist barriers are being erected, we have this market with enormous potential, but their only condition of buying oil is not being met by us," lamented a textile tycoon.

Iran bought 208 million square metres of textiles, 16,000 tons of cotton yarn, 10,000 tons of woollen yarn and 2,000 tons of tarpaulins in 1983-84, much more in value than Pakistan's textile exports to the United States. This size of a market, says an exporter, is not easy to ignore when no strings are attached.

Iranian reluctance to buy Pakistani goods, specially those supplied by the private sector, emanated from their view that Pakistan was not buying enough Iranian oil, not even that provided in the memorandum of understanding signed in 1983.

Protracted negotiations continued between the two sides before signing of the 1984 memorandum in Islamabad last November but by then Iranians had already tightened their foreign exchange policies so much so that Pakistan will now have to find new ways to meet their demands, informed sources believe.

Although supplies of foodgrains continued by the public sector agencies, exports of private sector suffered and this has now compelled the exporters to take up their case with the government.

"We are prepared to import Iranian oil even at a higher price which we will somehow adjust against our exports without letting the government suffer any foreign exchange loss," one of them argued.

Said another: "When the Iranians find it difficult to market their oil because of pressures on shipping line, why can't Pakistan buy from them and open new doors for its own products. Look at what the Turks are doing."

That the private sector would be allowed to import Iranian oil is something which the sponsors of the idea themselves agree would not be an easy decision for Islamabad.

"We understand the intricacies of the oil import economics and its politics. But what we are suggesting is nothing that is impossible. Let the government talk to us and then we will find out some formula which may be workable, both vis-a-vis Iran and other oil exporters," they maintain.

"We have not yet submitted a formal proposal as we want to gauge the initial reaction of the authorities. If they are found receptive to the idea, the suggestions will be formulated into tangible and workable proposals."

When a meaningful dialogue on the subject is held between the exporters and the government is not yet known but last week a delegation was supposed to have called on officials of the Petroleum Ministry. However sources close to the oil sector rule out an immediate response from the government. "Probably their first reaction would be one of repulsive surprise," commented one.

"Bureaucrats do not like ideas which tend to take away crucial bargaining powers from them and this is one such proposal involving millions of dollars. They will treat it with insulting indifference," another expert remarked.

"What we want is that the government should formulate its policies in a way which helps exporters in retaining and expanding the Iranian market. If this proposal fits into that scheme, it should be entertained," one exporter argued. "If they can come up with something better, we would be more than happy."

Mujahidin Shoot Down Soviet Aircraft in Qandahar

BK070627 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] According to a report, mujahidin forced the retreat of three Soviet military convoys in Afghanistan. These convoys were taking supplies for Soviet-Karmal troops beseiged in Barikowt cantonment of Konar Province.

According to the report, the 4th convoy was destroyed.

Western diplomatic sources report that Afghan mujahidin in fierce fighting near Khowst in Paktia Province shot down seven Soviet helicopters and one aircraft.

These sources report that the Soviet forces launched severe attacks on mujahidin strongholds from air and land in Qandahar, but the Afghan mujahidin's antiaircraft guns shot down two aircraft.

News agencies report that Afghan mujahidin repulsed Soviet-Karmal troops' attack on its bases in the Panjsher Valley and inflicted heavy loss of life and materials on them.

BANGLADESH

Ershad Calls for 'Enthusiasm' on Referendum

BK061525 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has said that to assure the stability and continuous progress of the nation, the people's verdict has been sought through a nationwide referendum on 21 March. He was addressing the chairmen of the municipal committees, commissioners of the Rajshahi Division, and union council chairmen in Rajshahi today.

The president said that in view of the deteriorating situation created by the destructive activities of some political parties, the government had no alternative but to seek the people's verdict through a referendum. Describing it as a national task, he called upon all elected representatives to create enthusiasm among the people to vote in the referendum.

The president said that the government is resolved to maintain a suitable atmosphere in the country, and any attempt by any section to disturb the law-and-order situation will be dealt with harshly.

Empatically reiterating his sincere desire to restore democracy in the country, President Ershad said that if the political parties come to an understanding in this regard, he is prepared to hold national elections after the referendum. He said that in a nation like Bangladesh, with a huge population suffering from various problems, we have to make united efforts to build the nation to improve the people's lot.

Ershad on People's Confidence in Armed Forces

BK070515 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has said the people of the country have complete confidence in the patriotic Armed Forces which comprise the sons of the soil. Addressing the officers and troops at Bogra cantonment today he said the Armed Forces earned this confidence by always standing by the people in their weal and woes.

The president said the people of the country want peace and prosperity and any ominous attempt by any quarter to disturb it would be nipped [as heard] with stern hand in cooperation with the people. He said his government wants elections for hastening democratization process but not at the cost of putting public security into jeopardy. He said we have accommodated all the demands of political parties with the hope that they would participate in the national elections for peaceful transition to democracy. Now, it is the say in every home what more General Ershad could do to accommodate view points of the political parties, he said [sentence as heard].

President Ershad said that people became fed up with the activities of the political parties and now they are happy that there has been stringent enforcement of martial law to restore peace, discipline, and order in the society and at the same time for maintenance of unabated development. People from all walks of life have already acclaimed this step of the government. President Ershad said, as the ever vigilant sentinels of the independence and sovereignty of the country, the primary role of the Armed Forces is to safeguard the country from external threats. But the Army had to take over the responsibility of running the administration of the country under compelling circumstances to save the nation from ruination. He said for the last 3 years they have worked secretly to bring improvement in every sphere of national life by introducing revolutionary changes and reforms suiting the needs of the country.

The president said we have made sincere efforts for establishing an elected government peacefully through elections. But he regretted that some of the political parties failed to rise to the occasion and resorted to antidemocratic means to deprive the people of their right of franchise.

President Ershad said the Armed Forces of the country, which was born through the independence war, will maintain its rock-solid unity at all times to uphold the interest of the country at any cost. The Armed Forces imbued with patriotism was to take up arms for independence and fought shoulder to shoulder with the people in winning the freedom. He said the political parties are claiming on the one hand that their demand focused the aspirations of the people, while on the other they are afraid to face the electorate to justify it. The coming referendum will surely crystallize the expression of the real opinion of the people in democratic means, he added.

President Ershad [word indistinct] Armed Forces specially in tackling the flood situation and organizing post-flood rehabilitation.

INDIA

Delhi Reports Further on Election Results

BK061611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Excerpts] A clear picture of the party position has emerged in 4 out of 11 states and in Pondicherry, where the assembly elections were held during the past few days. In Karnataka, the Janata Party has been returned to power, winning 130 seats out of 206 seats, results of which have been declared so far. This gives the party an absolute majority in the 224-member house. The Congress-I has secured 55 seats.

The Congress-I has secured an absolute majority in Gujarat. It has taken 105 out of 121 seats, results of which have been announced so far.

The Congress-I-All India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam alliance has secured two-thirds majority in Pondicherry. The alliance has won 20 out of 29 results which have come in. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam combined has got five seats.

The Sikkim Sangram Parishad has won the election, securing three-fourths of the seats in the 32-member state assembly. The Congress-I has only one seat.

As already reported, the Congress-I has secured three-fourths majority in Madhya Pradesh.

Results have been slow in coming from other areas. Except in Andhra Pradesh, the Congress-I continues to maintain a lead. In Andhra Pradesh, the Telugu Desam party and its allies have secured 137 seats, of which Telugu Desam alone has got 122. The strength of the Congress-I is 31. One hundred and seventy-two results have been declared from the state so far.

The position of the Congress-I is particularly good in Himachal Pradesh and Orissa. It is also doing well in Bihar, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. In Maharashtra, the Congress-I has secured 94 of the 183 results declared so far and is leading over other parties. But the Congress-S has bagged a sizable number of seats — 44. The Congress-S and its allies in the Progressive Democratic Front have together taken 77 seats.

Now here is the latest party position in some states: Andhra Pradesh — total seats 294; poll held 292; results declared 174; Telugu Desam 124; Congress-I 31; Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] 3; CP-I 5; CPI-M 6; Janata 1; independents and others 4.

Bihar — total seats 324; poll held 319; results declared 104; Congress-I 75; Dalit Mazdoor Kisan Party [DMKP] 6; Janata 5; BJP 3; CPI 2; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha 8; independents 4; Congress-S 1.

Gujarat — total seats 182; results declared 130; Congress-I 113; BJP 7; Janata 7; independents 3.

Himachal Pradesh — total seats 68; poll held 65; results declared 31; Congress-I 28; BJP 3.

Karnataka — total seats 224; results declared 206; Janata 133; Congress-I 55; CPI-M 2; BJP 2; CPI 4; independents and others 10.

Madhya Pradesh — total seats 320; results declared 320; Congress-I 250; BJP 58; Janata 5; Congress-S 1; independents 6.

Maharashtra — total seats 288; results declared 209; Congress-I 113; CPI-M 2; Congress-S 44; Progressive Workers Party 10; BJP 13; independents 13; Janata 13; CPI 1.

Congress-I Continues 'Winning Spree'

BK070615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Having received the mandate of the people in eight states and Pondicherry, the Congress-I continues its winning spree in the assembly elections. In Uttar Pradesh, with 51 results yet to come in, the party has already secured an absolute majority, while in Bihar also the party has got an absolute majority with 60 results still to be announced. In Andhra Pradesh Telugu Desam and in Karnataka the Janata Party have been returned to power. The Telugu Desam and its allies have secured two-thirds' majority in Andhra Pradesh, and in Karnataka the Janata Party has gained an absolute majority. In the Himalayan state of Sikkim, the Sikkim Sangram Parishad has swept the poll.

The latest party positions in some states are: Uttar Pradesh — total seats 425; elections held 422; results declared 371; Congress-I 236; CPI-M 1; Dalit Mazdoor Kisan Party [DMKP] 72; Janata 17; Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] 14; CPI 6; Congress-J 4; independents 21.

Bihar — total seats 324; elections held 319; results declared 262; Congress-I 165; DMKP 36; Janata 11; BJP 11; CPI 10; Congress-S 1; CPI-M 1; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha 9; independents 18.

Andhra Pradesh — total seats 294; elections held 292; results declared 246; Telugu Desam 172; Congress-I 41; CPI-M 10; CPI 8; Janata 2; BJP 7; Majlis Ittehadul Muslimeen 3; CPI-ML 1; independents 3.

SRI LANKA

Security Forces Raid Hideout; Recover Weapons

HK070724 Hong Kong AFP in English 0650 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Colombo, March 7 (AFP) — Security forces killed four Tamil separatists in northern Sri Lanka last night toward the end of a day-long clampdown, an Army commander said here today. This brings to 632 the official number of people illed in separatist-related violence in the country in the past 14 weeks.

Army Commander General Nalin Seneviratne also told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE that seven separatists had died in a shootout early in the operation when security forces raided a hideout in a village near Point Pedro, Jaffna province. Earlier reports had said 10 had died in that raid. The Army commander said his troops were ending the operation today.

Militant Tamils have been campaigning for an independent state in the country's north and east, claiming discrimination at the hands of the majority Sinhalas.

Gen. Seneviratne said the four separatists were shot dead when the soldiers engaged them near Point Pedro at the northern tip of the peninsula. He said mortars, home-made bombs and grenades were recovered from the hideout, a cluster of three houses.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AFP that yesterday's raid was a "major hit" at a separatist camp.

KEYHAN: Kidnapped U.S. Diplomat Held in Tehran

GF061340 London KEYHAN in Persian 28 Feb 85 p 3

[Text] Will the hostage story be repeated in Iran? A fairly informed source in Washington informed a *KEYHAN* reporter that William Buckley, an American diplomat, is at present imprisoned in Tehran. Buckley was kidnapped in Lebanon 2 months ago, and now it has been said that he was taken to Tehran via Syria by special plane.

Buckley was the political attache for the American Embassy in Beirut. There is a strong possibility that he was responsible for the CIA network in that country. His capture and placement in the mullah's hands could make him an instrument for Iran's new demands from Washington. We ask: Why don't the Americans make any fuss about this? American experts mention two reasons, one: Washington has learned a lesson from the previous hostage ordeal, and is aware that the Islamic Republic is thirsty for revolutionary propaganda. Second: Syria has promised to arrange Buckley's freedom through their influence.

Of course, Syria will blackmail both Reagan and the ayatollah's government.

Continuing Reportage on Iran-Iraq War

Reporters Inspect Bushehr Plant

LD061546 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Bushehr, Bushehr Province, March 6, IRNA — A group of 23 foreign reporters and television film crew today visited the site of the Iraqi Exocet missile attack on Bushehr nuclear power plant Monday. During the two-hour tour of the area, reporters inspected the damage caused by the attack. The Iraqi attack, carried out at 18:00 hours local time (14:30 GMT), damaged the concrete walls of the plant.

The Iraqi regime on Feb. 13, violating the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the 1970 Geneva protocol, attacked the plant with French-made Exocet missiles as a result of which one Iranian soldier and several others were injured and damages were caused.

Communique No 2,026

LD061627 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops Tuesday continued trading artillery fire in Haj 'Umran and Marivan areas, in the northern sector of the front, said Joint Staff Communique No. 2026.

The communique said Islamic combatants poured mortar and artillery fire on Iraqi positions while keeping under surveillance enemy supply activities in Chuman-Mostafa and Marivan.

In Bakhtaran and Ilam Provinces, the heaviest confrontations were reported in Mehran and Sumar, where the Islamic forces sent patrols and barraged enemy positions, inflicting an undetermined number of casualties.

In the southern sector, Iranian combatants maintained full control of their areas and shelled Iraqi positions and silenced their fire. Battle was heaviest in the Majnun Island, as well as the Nahr-Anbar area in comparison with action in the rest of the south.

A number of enemy patrol boats were spotted late night on Monday in the area opposite the Jofeyr front and were pushed back with casualties and equipment losses. Across the Arvand River, an Iraqi motor pool and sections of their positions were damaged.

Cease-Fire Conditions Set

LD061639 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA — The Islamic Republic Wednesday said it would consider to halt the shelling of the southern Iraqi city of Basra for a visit by a U.N. team only when Iraq renews its commitment to the June 12 agreement, barring both countries from attacks on civilians.

A high-ranking Iranian Foreign Ministry official told IRNA the Iraqi request for the U.N. team to inspect the city "totally contradicts the continued and repeated threats of the regime against 30 non-military centers in Iran."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran would consider this (Iraqi request for a safe visit by the team) when the Iraqi regime once again announces its commitment to the precise implementation of the June 12 agreement and stops is childish threats."

Iranian guns opened against Basra last night after Monday's Iraqi air raids against Ahvaz and Bushehr. Twelve people were martyred and about 30 were injured in Ahvaz and structural damage was done against an incomplete nuclear power plant in Bushehr.

Musavi Warns of 'Severe' Reply

LD061742 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said after a Cabinet meeting Wednesday that "the Islamic combatants will deal a more severe blow on the Iraqi regime, in reply to any Iraqi attack." Musavi said Monday's bombing of non-military areas in Iran, indicated the fear of the Iraqi regime of the Islamic combatants.

Meanwhile during the Cabinet meeting, minister of heavy industries, Behzad Nabavi, reported on his recent trip to Japan and his talks with officials there on the expansion of mutual cooperation. He described the visit of the Iranian delegation as successful.

Deputy Prime Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, reported on the trip of the Chinese politico-economic delegation to Iran. He said the two countries made a number decisions on mutual cooperation in the fields of fisheries, agriculture, trade and technology.

Musavi Defends Basra Retaliation

LD061845 Tehran IRNA in English 1823 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA — The Islamic Republic retaliated Iraqi attacks on non-military centers in Iran according to an Islamic law but did not intend to spread bloodshed, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said.

"We had no other choice," the prime minister said of Iran's shelling of the Iraqi city of Basra on Tuesday [5 March]. "Any retreat from our just stands would open the way for more crimes by Saddam."

Musavi was speaking Wednesday in a meeting with members of the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee.

"We did not and do not want to spread bloodshed. We never initiated attacks and aggression against residents in Iraqi cities. We have been innocent in this war from the very beginning and we continue to be so." He added "If we do not stand against Iraq's megalomania, be sure the enemy would not stop (its atrocities)."

Iraq Fires Missiles at Dezful

LD070331 Tehran IRNA in English 0328 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA — Iraq fired eight missiles at the southern Iranian city of Dezful after midnight Thursday, inflicting extensive casualties and damage. The attack took place at 1:00 a.m. (21:30 GMT) when the ground-to-ground missiles all crashed in about 20 seconds into Dezful, which is some 90 kms east of the border with Iraq in Khuzestan Province.

An IRNA correspondent in Dezful reported at 3:00 am (23:30 GMT) that the bodies of two children and three elderly men have so far been recovered from debris and more than 70 have been injured.

The people of Dezful have actively participated in the rescue work, which was still continuing at 6:00 o'clock (2:30 GMT). They expressed deep anger and strongly urged the authorities to carry out severe retaliation.

The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces has warned that Iraqi attacks against civilian areas in Iran would prompt the Islamic forces to "turn Iraq into a hell of fire and devastation."

The governor of Dezful told IRNA he was unable to give a precise figure for the destruction caused by the attack. But he said the city's Afshar Hospital was partially devastated, which wounded some of the patients there. Two high schools were also badly damaged, he added. Dezful has been the most frequent target of Iraqi missiles during the war, martyring and wounding thousands of its inhabitants.

Communique No 2,027

LD070753 Tehran IRNA in English 0751 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA — Iranian forces will launch artillery and aerial attacks against two Iraqi cities of Basra and Mandali today in retaliation for Iraq's missile attack against Dezful early on Thursday, a Joint Staff Command Communique announced Thursday.

In its 2027th communique, the joint staff noted that the attacks against Basra and Mandali will be launched from 15:00 hours local time (11:30 GMT), Thursday.

It called on the domestic and foreign inhabitants of the two cities to evaluate them as soon as possible, adding that the pro-U.S. regime in Iraqi will be responsible for any loss of lives in this respect.

The communique added that the Baghdad regime, following its threats to attack 30 Iranian cities, shelled the southern city of Dezful with eight missiles early on Thursday, martyring a large number of civilians and inflicting heavy damages.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Attack

LD070833 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA — The Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here today that Iraqi missile attack on the southern city of Dezful shows that it has hatched a new plot for a new round of vicious acts.

Speaking at the open session of the Majlis he added that despite appeals made by the United Nations which was immediately met by the Islamic Republic of Iran halting its attack on the Iraqi city of Basra, the Baghdad regime started a new round of attacks on the Iranian residential areas.

In doing so, he added, the Iraqi regime once again proved that it has no respect for its commitments.

We have done our utmost, he stressed, to prevent the war from spreading to residential areas and have proven this.

However, "it seems that we have no alternative but to retaliate as powerfully as we can, for there is no other way to stop these mischieves."

Under the present circumstances, he continued, in order to protect lives of our citizens and the unarmed inhabitants of the areas in particular, it is our responsibility as well as that of the Islamic combatants to stop being tolerant and patient.

Addressing his remarks to the United Nations, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that by failing to fulfill its duties the war is now spread to residential areas deep inside Iraq. "We did not want such a thing to happen," he stressed.

Mustafa Faregh, the deputy from the city of Dezful which became target of Iraqi missile attack Wednesday, said that the people of the city expect the officials to respond to this savage action of the Baghdad regime.

He further urged the Iranian officials to issue order for an all-out attack against Iraq and punish the Iraqi Ba'thist leaders.

Abadan Under 'Heavy' Fire

LD071028 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Ahvaz, March 7, IRNA — The city of Abadan in south Iran came under heavy Iraqi artillery fire and parts of the city were set on fire on Thursday. Following a missile attack on the city of Dezful early Thursday, the Iraqi regime, using a number of its artillery units, barraged Abadan for three hours starting 09:00 hours local time (05:30 GMT).

During the attack, three people were martyred and five others wounded while tens of houses and shops were damaged and palm groves around the city were set on fire. Latest reports from Abadan indicate that the Iraqi artillery fire subsided by 12:00 noon (08:30 GMT).

Abadan, Khorramshahr Shelled

LD071207 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] According to the report of the Voice and Vision Central News Unit conrrespondent, at 0830 this morning Iraqi artillery shelled the residential and nonmilitary areas of Abadan and Khorramshahr with its long-range artillery for 2 hours and 30 minutes. During these attacks a number of our nonmilitary compatriots in Abadan were injured and dozens of residential homes in that town were destroyed or set on fire. A number of private cars were also destroyed.

UN Requested To Take Action

LD071153 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA — The secretary general of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, Dr. Vahid Datjerdi, in a telegram to the United Nations secretary general today said that silence of the organisation towards the Iraqi aggression would further make the oppressed people of the world to distrust it.

Further in his message Dr. Dastjerdi said tht the Iraqi missile attack on the southern city of Dezful early Thursday morning, was another clear violation of human principles and international regulations. Once again, it added, the Iraqi regime took civilians as its target and martyred or injured a number of Dezful's inhabitants and caused massive destruction.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society which has been mobilised to rescue and help the victims, condemns this savage attack and "it warns the United Nations, and the International Committee of Red Cross, that silence towards such violations of internationally accepted regulations would further make deprived masses of the world disappointed with these organisations and would increase their distrust."

Furthermore, it continued, such a silence would encourage the Iraqi regime to continue its violations and crimes.

Therefore, it concluded, in order to protect the credibility of the organisation, immediate actions should be taken.

Basra, Mandali Shelled

LD071332 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA — Iranian artillery units started shelling the Iraqi cities of Basra and Mandali at 15:00 hours (11:30 GMT).

The Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a communique this morning had stated that the Islamic combatants in retaliation for the Iraqi missile attacks on Dezful early Thursday morning, which resulted in martyrdom or injury of some 75 civilians, would shell Basra and Mandali. The communique had warned residents of Basra and Mandali to evacuate the cities.

Mandali is located some 120 kms northeast of Baghdad near the border with Iran. The port city of Basra, with population of more than one million, is 30 kms from the Iran's southern border opposite Khorramshahr.

Throughout the Iraqi imposed war, the Iraqi units stationed near Basra have bee : shelling the residential areas of the Iranian cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr regularly.

Rajaie-Khorasani on POW's, Iraqi Bombings

LD070742 Tehran IRNA in English 0616 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Washington, March 7, IRNA — Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Seyed Rajaie-Khorasani announced that Iran was ready to exchange three high-ranking Iraqi POW officers in Iran for former Oil Minister Mohammad Javad Tondguyan and his two companions kidnapped to Iraq at the beginning of the 1980 Iraq-Iran war.

Speaking at a press conference at the U.N. Headquarters in New York on Wednesday, Rajaie-Khorasani noted that the Iraqi regime could choose three high-ranking Iraqi POW officers or pilots in Iran to be exchanged with Tondguyan and his two companions who are being tortured in Iraq. He stressed that so far, neither officials of the Red Cross nor the United Nations delegates had been able to meet Tondguyan.

He further emphasised that Tondguyan and his companions, and also all civilian Iranians who, according to the Geneva Convention are not considered as prisoners of war but are in Iraqi POW camps or torture houses should be released as soon as possible.

Referring to Iraq's proposal for a meeting of the U.N. Security Council, Rajaie-Khorasani regretted participation of Arab representatives in the session at a time they should have condemned aggression of Zionist usurpers against a religious center in southern Lebanon. He added that such an "improper" request had greatly helped to deviate world public opinion from the Zionist aggression in southern Lebanon.

The Iranian U.N. envoy then argued why the Security Council had held the session but had not so far taken any measure against Iraqi regime's crimes specified in the report of the U.N. fact-finding delegation to the POW camps in Iran and Iraq.

He emphasised that exchange of disabled and civilian POW's should be conducted as soon as possible and announced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the unilateral release of the said POW's. He added that Iran had previously announced release of 32 Iraqi disabled and injured POW's but so far the Iraqi regime had failed to make a response in this connection. He said that he believed even the youth who were under 16 years old by the time of their captivity, could be also released bilaterally.

Referring to recent Iraqi attacks against Iranian cities of Ahvaz and Bushehr, Rajaie-Khorasani said that the Islamic Republic of Iran had concluded that Iran's reliance on the U.N. for taking measures to prevent such crimes, was useless. Therefore, he stressed, the Islamic Republic of Iran had no alternative other than embarking on retaliatory measures.

Deputy Minister, India's Krishna Discuss Trade
LD071048 Tehran IRNA in English 1834 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA — India's Deputy Oil Minister Rama Krishna Wednesday met with Iranian Minister of Economy and Finance Hoseyn Namazi, and discussed trade between the two countries. Rama Krishna arrived in Tehran on Tuesday.

Nabavi on Topics Discussed During Visit to Japan
LD070031 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA — Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi who returned from a visit to Japan Friday [1 March] said his visit was to assess possibilities for further cooperation but that no new agreements were signed. Economic and technical cooperation including the completion of the Bandar Khomeyni petrochemical plant and technology transfer were discussed with Japanese officials, he said.

"The trip was simply a fact-finding one to inspect Japanese industries," Nabavi added. Nabavi also said Iranian policy concerning the security of shipping in the Persian Gulf was among topics discussed with Japanese officials.

Some members of Nabavi's delegation stayed in Japan to continue discussions on the assembly of four-wheel-drive vehicles and two-ton trucks in Iran. Bilateral trade stood at dlrs 7 billion in 1362 (March 1983-March 1984) he said.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Members Executed at Evin Prison
LD061434 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 6 Mar 85

[From the press review of *ETTELA'AT* 6 March edition]

[Excerpt] In Evin Prison, two hijackers and one of the torturers belonging to the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization were executed yesterday. One of those executed was Khosrow Zandi who was responsible for torturing and burying alive three Revolution Guards of the committee.

SAIRI Announces Executions of Iraqi Soldiers
GF071111 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] announced that the Iraqi regime executed 3,858 Iraqi soldiers since it launched a war against the Islamic Revolution. SAIRI added that these soldiers were executed without trial for opposing the policy of the Zionist Ba'thist regime in Iraq and for refusing to confront the Islamic combatants.

Iraqi Ammunition Depot Explodes, Kills 60 Troops
LD061918 Tehran IRNA in English 1841 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA — Sixty Iraqi soldiers were killed and scores of others injured recently during a series of powerful explosions at an ammunition depot in Baghdad. The depot belonged to the Al-Rashid Garrison.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) said in a statement here today that among those killed were a number of so-called Peoples Army personnel. Extensive damages were inflicted on the garrison, SAIRI said.

Iraqi Revolutionaries Attack Regime Forces
GF070846 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] The Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries attacked a center belonging to the Iraqi regime's forces in the village of Kuk-Dabbah in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province in northern Iraq, killing scores of the Saddamist forces and forcing the remaining troops to retreat from this area. As a result of this defeat suffered by the forces of the ruling regime in Iraq, units from these forces supported by seven war planes and artillery units shelled Al-Sulaymaniyah area. The weekly *AL-JIHAD* which published the report added that the Saddamist forces afterward destroyed more than 380 houses and 2 mosques, using dynamite and other explosives. A huge number of Koranic texts and religious books were burned and the village of Kuk-Dabbah was completely destroyed.

Reports on Fighting in Afghanistan Cited
LD061309 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, fighting between the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries and joint government and Soviet forces has been intensified in order to control strategic positions after the end of the winter. According to these reports, Muslim Afghan revolutionaries, while repulsing the attacks of the joint government and Soviet forces at the Barikowt garrison, killed at least 200 of them. In the course of these attacks, which were carried out with the support of tanks and armoured personnel carriers in order to break the siege of that garrison, the Soviet forces lost 12 tanks and 7 armored personnel carriers. The Barikowt garrison has long been under siege by the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries.

According to a Central News Unit report, during an intense clash which took place between the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries and the Soviet and Afghan Government forces in the southern Province of Paktia, one Soviet aircraft and 7 helicopters were downed.

In other operations the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries, while attacking a military garrison of the forces of the Afghan regime in Qandahar, succeeded in destroying one armored personnel carrier and killed 12 Afghan military personnel including an officer. In retaliation for this attack, the Soviet forces carried out air bombings and ground attacks against the positions of the Muslim revolutionaries around Qandahar. However, the result of the steadfastness of the Muslim revolutionaries these attacks were repulsed and two aircraft of the aggressive forces were downed.

Soviet commandos using helicopters carried out some attacks against the positions of the Muslim revolutionaries in the Panjsher valley but after suffering some losses were forced to retreat without achieving any successes.

Other reports received from Afghanistan indicate that, fearing that government forces stationed in Paktia Province may join Muslim revolutionaries, the Karmal government allows the forces to go to nearby rivers in order to fetch water only when accompanied by a numbr of government paramilitary forces.